ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for instructing a processing system to present information. In one embodiment of the invention a server processing system on a network uses the DHCP protocol to provide network configuration information for a client processing system. The server processing system uses DHCP option code 56 to include presentation information with the configuration information sent to the client. Option code 56 allows for text messages to be presented by the client processing system and also allows URL-formatted text that may cause web pages or other internet resources to be presented by the client processing system. Because the presentation information is included with the network configuration information, information is presented when the client processing system uses the configuration information (e.g., upon network initialization).